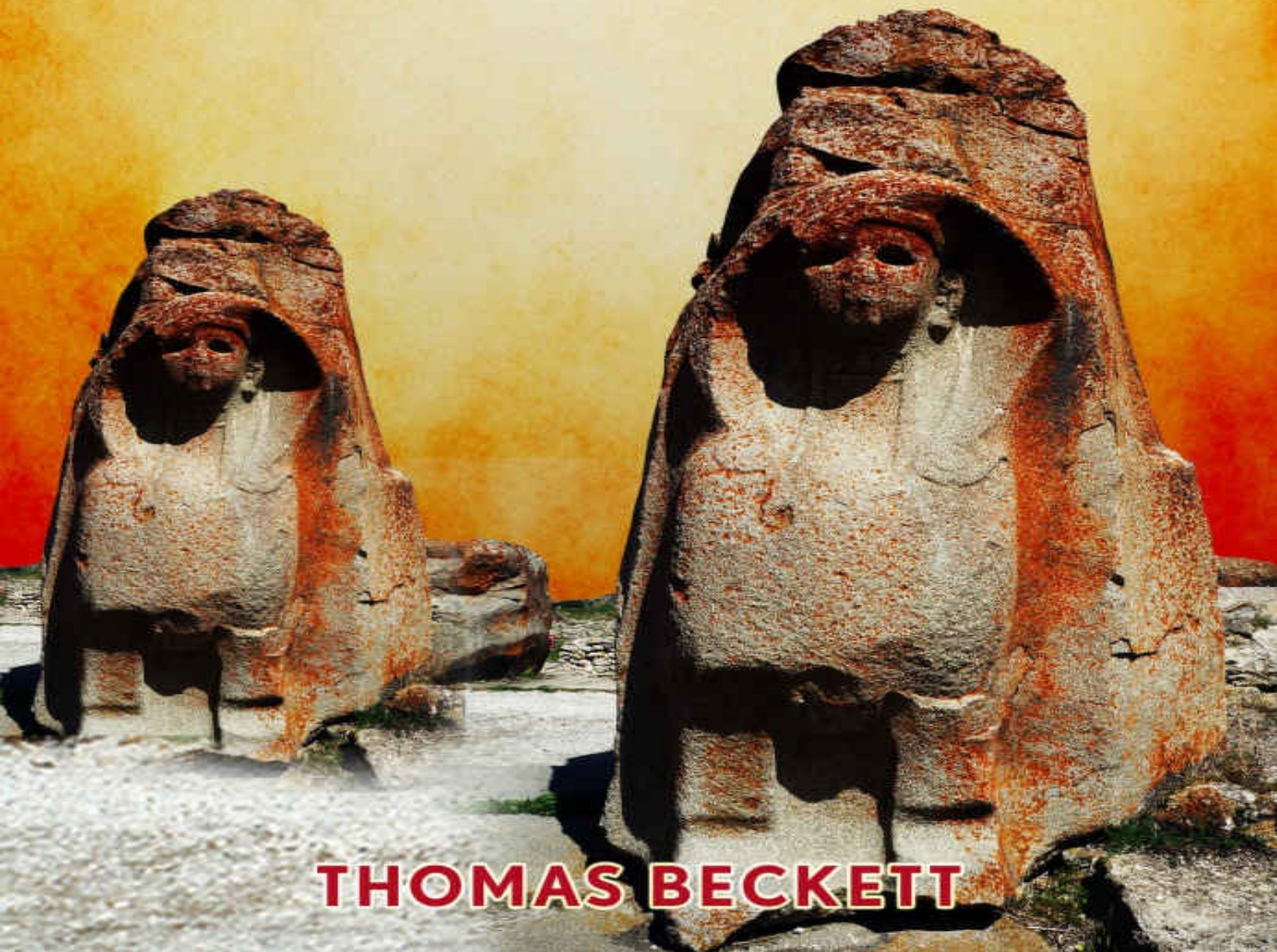
HITTITES

DISCOVER THE LOST EMPIRE

Everything You Need to Know About The Hittites Empire of the Ancient World



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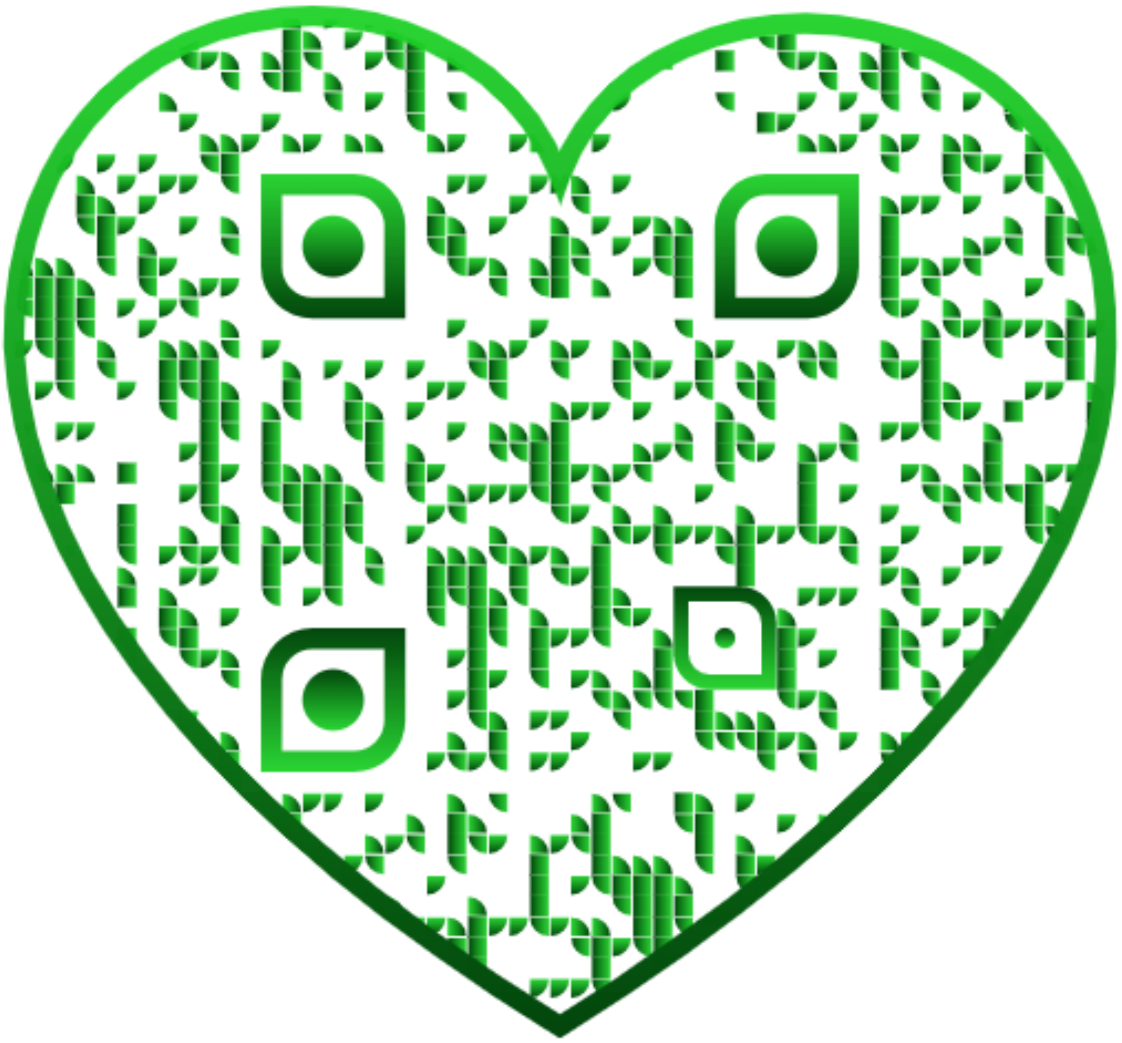

The Hittites

Discover the Lost Empire: Everything You Need To Know About The Hittites Of The Ancient World

Thomas Beckett

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Introduction

I want to thank you and congratulate you for reading the book, ‘ The Hittites: The Lost Empire: Everything You Need to Know About the Hittites of the Ancient World’.

The main idea behind this book is to give the readers a unique perspective into one of the most important and yet least known of all ancient races. The ancient world has the potential to teach us so much about how we have come to be today, and the Hittite people are no exception. From their mysterious origins to their sudden appearance in Asia Minor, the Hittite people provided massive technological and ideological adjustments to the scientific, political, and militaristic world they inhabited. The aim of this book is to assist you in understanding just how significant the Hittite people were even though they only existed as a distinct race for a short period of time.

Some of the items you will learn as you read this book concerning the history of the Hittite are:

- The Hittite origin
- A timeline of events highlighting both the old, middle, and new kingdoms of the Hittite people
- Influential Hittite Kings and Queens and their achievements
- An overview of the Hittite religious belief structure and how it impacted daily Hittite life

- A list of some of the best-known gods and goddesses, and what each represented to the Hittite people
- A synopsis of what researchers suspect were the strengths and ultimate weaknesses of the Hittite culture
- The role of women in Hittite society
- Notable facts concerning Hittite life
- Lesser known ideas relating to the Hittite people
- Gods/Goddesses & Myths

Thanks again for reading this book, I hope you enjoy it!

Chapter 1: A History of the Hittites and Why You Should Know Them

When considering the scope of ancient societies, it is important to recognize and distinguish one sect from the next. It would be quite fair to say that the Greeks and the Romans are both ancient societies who are both regarded as being highly influential in the ways they shaped the world around them. These two civilizations swayed the course of history through their developments as societies in ventures related to military aims, political and scientific ideologies, and religious views. What is important to recognize, though is that while each of these societies, did, in fact, exist in ancient times, they are fundamentally distinct from one another.

While they may have existed in similar geographic areas and may have had periodic interactions with one another, they are by no means the same societies of people. If you would, please consider the similarities between people from Canada and people from the United States. While it is true that both share a similar geographic region and are interconnected through trade and diplomacy, each is distinct from the next. The same can be said of most, if not all, of the groups we today classify as ancient races.

In order to be able to identify and recognize an ancient race as being influential and distinct from their neighbors, it is important to distinguish what makes them unique. What qualities did they embody that makes them important to history? How did they impact the world around them in their

own time and does there continue to be any evidence of their impact today?

The trouble many scholars may face when attempting to answer these questions can be great. Sometimes the stories and information needed to comprehend fully the significance of culture may only be passed down through oral traditions or could only be found in the writings of other cultures. Other times historians find that the information that is handed down may be incomplete or may be presented in a form that is difficult for scholars to analyze and fully understand.

The relics relating to the history of the ancient Egyptian culture are quite well known and had been for hundreds of years before anyone being fully able to comprehend what they represented or what they said. It wasn't until the discovery of the Rosetta stone that scientists were able to begin to understand fully what the ancient Egyptians had left behind. What the Rosetta Stone did for scientists was to take the ancient writing of the Egyptians, hieroglyphics, and translate it into both the Demotic and Greek languages respectively. This one solitary piece of the literary translation made a tremendous difference in the base understanding of how advanced our knowledge of the ancient Egyptian society truly was.

The information we gather concerning ancient people can vary greatly in quality and quantity. What we are able to gain from the texts available depends greatly upon many variables that are completely out of our control. We need to consider what time frame the culture in questions may have existed in, the methods they may have used to record the events of their society, and the linguistic or cultural anomalies that may be present in their records with which we are unfamiliar. This last point reflects once again back

to the difficulties historians had with the understanding of the ancient Egyptian culture's use of hieroglyphics.

There is one group among the many ancient societies for which the history books have little to say. Their contributions to the scientific world rival some of the greatest discoveries by many of their counterparts. Their ability to match, and, at times, overcome their rivals on the battlefield marks them as a significant force in the cultural landscape of their region, considering some of their rivals were at this time. These people were known as the Hittite.

The Hittites were an ancient race of Indo-European people who came to rule over a land called Anatolia. It is surmised that prior to their establishment in this region, they were primarily a race of nomadic peasantry without a centralized region to call home. The Hittite existed primarily by agricultural means throughout their existence, both before and after their unification as an individual race. The search for new lands to farm has what many believe led the Hittite to the land soon to be known as Anatolia.

What the Hittite did in the relatively short time they were active is remarkable given the turmoil the came before and after them. They were able to unite individual warring states into a cohesive country and unify multiple groups of people under one banner. The Hittite were able not only to indoctrinate effectively new people into their empire, but also worked to incorporate the elements that made these newly conquered people feel distinct and proud of their heritage. Any country today would be hard pressed to accomplish this much in this short a time frame.

The Hittite's reign as a dominant force in the region is generally segregated

into two distinct sections: the Old Kingdom and the New Kingdom. There are those who list a third, Middle Kingdom, as a separate entity between these two larger sections of time. The argument against including this span of time as a separate era is that it only lasted an estimated fifty years before the dawning of the next age.

The general consensus is that the Old Kingdom began around the year 1750 B.C., though the Hittite existed in the region for an additional 250 years before this date. The year 1750 B.C. is reflective of the establishment of Hattusa being established as the permanent capital of Anatolia, a distinction it would hold until the final days of the New Kingdom. Records indicate that the accepted range of the Old Kingdom runs from 1750 B.C. until 1500 B.C. The Middle Kingdom existed briefly beginning in the year 1500 B.C. and lasting only a brief 50 years. The year 1450 B.C. begins what many call the New Kingdom when King Suppiluliumas I begins to turn the country of Anatolia into an empire. It is in this year that Suppiluliumas I conquers Syria and begins to make credible gains in territory. The Hittite's New Kingdom lasted from 1450 B.C. all the way until 1180 B.C., when the capital city of Hattusa was sacked and the Hittite, were forced to flee effectively ending their reign as an empire.

The Hittite system of rule was similar to that of many in their region at that time. They united behind a King and Queen who ruled with supreme authority. It was a common belief at this time that the King had control over all aspects of Hittite life. He was the recognized leader in the matters of all military, civil, and religious affairs. The title of King was originally an elected position, though over time throughout the successive kingdoms associated with the Hittite people the kingship became a hereditary honor.

Throughout the time of Hittite rule, it was also at times common for the throne to be taken through violent means such as the assassination of the current king.

Many Hittite kings are attributed with the great successes of the Hittite people during their reigns. These kings are claimed to be responsible for everything from the centralization of the Hittite empire to a capital city, the incorporation of vast new tracts of land, a great peace treaty with the powerful neighboring rival of ancient Egypt, and the eventual downfall of the society as a whole.

Some notable Hittite kings and their notable deeds are:

- Labarnash
    - The first king to rule over a united Hittite kingdom in the early 16th century BC
- Hattusili I
    - Relocated the Hittite capital from Nesa to Hattusa
- Mursilis I
    - Came to the throne as a youth
    - Plundered Babylon in 1531 BC
    - Acquired massive sections of Northern Syria through military conquest
    - His assassination brought about a massive civil unrest that led to the loss of lands gained throughout his military campaigns.
- Muwatalli II
    - Led Hittite armies in the Battle of Kadesh against Ramesses II
    - Signed the first peace treaty on record in recorded history to end

the conflict between Anatolia and Egypt

- Mursilish II
    - Son of Supiluliuma I
    - Assumed power after both his father and brother, Arnuwanda II, fell victim to the plague
    - Resisted years of general unrest and rebellion along the borders of Anatolia
    - Did much to secure both northern and western borders while on the throne
- Tudhaliya I
    - First recognized ruler of the ‘New Kingdom’ of the Hittite people
- Supiluliuma I
    - Conquered a significant amount of Egyptian territory
    - Betrothed a son to marry an Egyptian queen, though the son died en route
    - Died from complications related to the plague which arrived in the region with the soldiers returning from military actions in Egypt
- Supiluliuma II
    - Last official ruler of the capital city of Hattusa

Women in Hittite culture had some basic rights that are different from women across the world today. While the Hittite social system was not developed to be completely equal between men and women, the later had more rights than women in other regions of the world at this time. Women in Hittite society had laws that protected them from situations such as rape and gave them the

authority to divorce their husbands. Hittite women were allowed to own property and had the ability to have careers outside of their homes. This society also revered women for their ability to develop and carry life.

Just as important as the king in many cases, the queens associated with the Hittite way of life had certain distinctions and honors unique to them. The queen was regarded as a goddess in the Hittite religion throughout her time in power. Another interesting notion regarding the status of the Hittite queen is that if the king happened to die while still in power, the queen would continue as ruler of the people. It is true that in these cases, the next heir apparent would rule as king alongside the current queen.

Some notable Hittite queens are:

- Tawannanna
    - She is recognized as the queen to the first king of the Hittite empire
- Puduhepa
    - Married to King Hatusilli III
    - Known to rule side by side with the king
    - Worked steadily to organize Hittite religious views
    - Acted as a priestess to the goddess Ishtar
- Kali
    - Wife to Mursili I
- Asmu-nikal

Their empire existed until 1100 BC, when they were overtaken by the ‘Sea

People.'

Little remains in regards to their written language.

The fact that they acted as a fully unified society is incredible given the period and the technological limitations of that time.

Some distinguishing characteristics regarding these people were their in-depth understanding and complete control over the secret process to produce iron.

Chapter 2: Where Did The Hittite Come From And How Were They So Successful?

So now that we know so much about the Hittite people, the discussion comes back to the beginning of it all. Where exactly did this race of people originate? Given the details that the Hittite left behind, modern researchers have been able to surmise that the Hittite people most likely came into the region from what is present day Ukraine.

The Hittite first arrived in Anatolia around the time of 2000 B.C. Before their arrival, this region was already inhabited by other groups of people. These groups initially resisted the militaristic advances of the Hittite people, though were eventually overpowered and succumbed to their advances. Within several hundred years, the entire region was under the control of the Hittite king.

This time period is best defined as the later stages of the Bronze Age. The majority of the world at this time utilized bronze as a major resource for

tools, weapons, and other everyday items. Bronze was a readily accessible material that was the product of easily workable elements that were quite common. The advantage to using bronze was that it was extremely malleable and did not take extreme heat to be manufactured. The downside to bronze was that it did not keep a sharp edge for long periods of time and was not a very sturdy metal.

These shortcomings of bronze are magnified one hundred fold when you consider that some of the key items made from metal at this time period were related to military needs. Swords, armor, and shields all used bronze in their construction. If an army's sword became dull or their armor suffered damage, it would be a massive priority for these items to be repaired immediately.

What the Hittite had that other cultures in the region did not was the knowledge of how to make iron. The Hittite had learned the secretive process for extracting iron from rocks containing iron ore. That is not to say that other cultures had not attempted to do the same, but the Hittite were able to understand the best methods for increasing the heat in their forges to a massive degree in order to separate the ore from the base rocks. This concept alone is the main reason that the Hittite was able to unify their nation and expand it to neighboring borders.

The Hittite used this new found metal as a way to create stronger weapons. Their swords, shields, and armor were all crafted using iron as opposed to bronze. The iron was more durable and held a sharper edge over a longer period of time. Considering that many of the military campaigns fought throughout this time were hand-to-hand combat, this gave the Hittite a massive edge over their competitors. The Hittite used these stronger, sharper

weapons to continually expand their empire and to overcome rebellions within their own borders.
The Hittite conquered the then existing city-states of the region and unified them all under one authority using their iron weapons and other military technology. At that time, many of these city-states were at war with one another. With the introduction of iron, the Hittite were able to improve not just their military capabilities, but also the tools related to daily functioning.

The Hittites were an agriculturally based society. They relied heavily on farming and herding as a means to support their empire's development and sustainability. With the inclusion of iron, farmers were able to begin using iron plows that allowed them to till land that had previously been unusable due to soil conditions. It allowed the Hittite to increase dramatically their output of crops and to support their ever-growing empire.

Another piece of technology that the Hittite utilized was the chariot. The Hittites were not the only race in this region to have access to horses and chariots. What made the Hittite's use of these weapons unique was how they constructed their chariots. While one or two soldiers may have used a standard chariot, the Hittite designed their chariots to be used by three soldiers. So why would this be advantageous? Consider this notion.

A chariot needs to be driven by at least one person. If the driver of a chariot must focus all of their efforts on controlling the team of horses, how many arrows can they fire? How can they best defend themselves against the swords of an enemy? The Hittite chariots fit three soldiers. This allowed one man to drive the chariot and allowed two more to work effectively as soldiers and focus their efforts on warfare.

The Hittite used these chariots extremely effectively. One of the ancient cultures most connected to chariots is the Egyptian culture. The size advantage of the Hittite's chariots is what helped them to overcome Egyptian advance into their territory.

The combined effects of Hittite designed chariots and iron made weapons were what gave the Hittite the power to unify their home region of Anatolia and expand their empire. At the height of their power and control, the Hittite king held influence over land that would encompass modern-day Turkey, Syria, and Lebanon. Hittite raids were also successful at striking targets far from their home range as a means of destabilizing neighboring states and allowing the Hittite to gain further influence among their neighbors.

Another aspect that allowed the Hittite to maintain such a firm grip on the entire region of Anatolia was their advanced understanding of commerce and trade. The Hittites were skilled merchants and traders. Their positioning near two strategic coastlines allowed them to have access to maritime trade and further establish lucrative trading ports. This aided the Hittite by providing them with the opportunity to improve their position as a trading partner to rivals of their neighboring enemies. The Hittite also controlled vast areas of land whereby land-based trade caravans from the Far East needed to pass through as a means to reach their final destinations.

While the Hittites understood the process of making iron, their empire existed fully within the Bronze Age. It wasn't until the empire's final demise that the Hittite let their secrets of iron working escape their empire to other cultures. This action is what truly ushered in the next age, commonly referred to as the

Iron Age.

One of the key portions of accessing records concerning these secretive Hittite people is actually through one of the most well-known books in existence. The Hittites are continually referenced in the Old Testament of the Bible. In fact, biblical references about the Hittite abound. One of the Old Testament's most famous characters is said to have interacted with the Hittite. Abraham, a foundational individual from ancient times, is said to have purchased a cave from a Hittite in which his wife, Sarah, was buried. This was massively significant, as, before this, Abraham had been engaged in a life that was defined by wandering from region to region. This notion is very similar to the details relating to the origins of the Hittite. Remember that prior to settling in the area then known as Anatolia, the Hittite were wandering people consumed primarily with agricultural development.

So what then happened to the Hittite? To fully answer this question, you should consider some of the factors the Hittite needed to ensure continued success as an empire. The Hittite were susceptible to disease same as any other ancient race. While they did rely on ancient medicines as a means to ward off certain infections, they were not immune to the diseases that commonly ravaged entire nations. An outbreak of plague decimated much of the land and left many dead. Without sufficient manpower to operate the needed positions within the empire, tasks began to go unfinished. These unfinished tasks compounded over time and began a snowball effect that eventually led to the failure of needed systems within the Hittite culture.

Another issue for which the Hittite empire was at fault was the continued cost of unending military campaigns. The Hittite were continually attempting to

gain full control over the lands of Syria and beyond. These city centers were far from their home where the Hittite people had the strongest support base. As the Hittite attempted to wrest the control and gain continued support over these lands, they inadvertently overtaxed their own networks of supply and support. Too much was taken for too long and eventually the Hittite found themselves at odds with continuing this unsustainable war effort.

The final cause of the downfall of the Hittite empire can be found in the exact same issue by which they came to the lands of Anatolia. Outsiders whom they called the ‘sea people’ began arriving in untold numbers to their homelands. These people were eventually successful in ousting the Hittite, from their native lands and forcing them to flee to lands to the south where they were forced to settle in new lands and cultures. Their assimilation did not maintain the same success as their initial foray into the lands of Anatolia as they were unable to unify any sort of centralized government in these new lands and had to instead, accept the ways of these new lands.

Chapter 3: An Overview of the Hittite Religion and Who Mattered Most

The Hittites were a polytheistic society, meaning they worshiped more than one god. In fact, records indicate that the Hittite worships more than one thousand individual gods throughout their history. Many of these gods represented naturally occurring phenomena such as seasonal rains, mountains, and the fertility of crops. Others among these gods represented human-based interactions such as war and the sanctity of treaties. And still others were viewed as divine representations for the evils of life including disease and famine.

Historical records of the Hittite cannon have been very difficult to locate due to the long period of time from when they would have been recorded in modern time. What the Hittite did leave behind were ancient relics along with many stone carvings. One of the most common relics that researchers have been able to locate and identify is Huwasi stones. Huwasi stones are known for being sacred relics to the Hittite people and often have depictions of gods and goddesses carved into them. By using these stones, researchers have been able to understand more about the Hittite's belief structure and how they viewed the gods they worshiped.

The origins of the Hittite religion can be traced back to their roots as a culture. As they began as a migratory culture, the Hittite brought their own system of beliefs when they moved to the Anatolia region. Their initial polytheistic beliefs were rooted deeply in their Indo-European origin. Many of the earliest gods attributed to the Hittite religion have many features which

are strikingly similar to the gods worshipped by other cultures throughout the region and beyond. The origin stories of many of these gods also have the same foundational elements, which is not surprising given the commonality among many historical documents and stories from this period.

As evidence to the commonality of stories among cultures in this period you need only to read the stories of Gilgamesh, an ancient Mesopotamian work, and Noah, a story from the Old Testament of the Bible. Both stories take place in somewhat similar areas, but are attributed to different people. The important distinction for this example is that in both cases the foundational elements of each story are the same. At their core, each story depicts how the Earth was purged of evil through means of a massive flood whereby only the purest and most devoted survived.

Obviously floods were terrible, and not an uncommon, natural phenomenon that ancient people worked to understand. Like many of the events in their lives, ancient people considered that these events were the work of divine entities. This is no different than a good crop of grain or a plague of locusts. These ancient stories work to demonstrate how the sharing of common stories and lore helped ancient people to come to terms with what was happening in the world around them, regardless of who they worshiped or how.

One of the greatest strengths of the Hittite was that they practiced extreme religious tolerance. They made a habit of incorporating the gods of a conquered people into their own religion as a means to demonstrate respect and understanding of the beliefs of these new people. Religious tolerance was respected among the ruling bodies of the Hittite that they decreed it as a law. This method of incorporating the base elements of a people’s religion made controlling these new lands and people easier to manage in a time where tensions commonly flared up, and rebellion was not an uncommon concept.

Many of the gods the Hittite brought into their religion already shared similarities with currently worshiped gods. The basic framework of the Hittite religion was already an amalgamation of two different groups. Though the Hittite brought their belief system with them as they moved into the area of Anatolia, the region already contained people with their own religious structure. In fact, prior to the Hittite entering this land, an indigenous people known as the Hattic already resided there and worshiped a goddess related to the sun. Initial efforts at the unification of these people generated the religious base that would serve as the foundation for all Hittite beliefs.

As a polytheistic society, the Hittite had roughly one thousand gods and goddesses in total. One reason for such a large number of gods was the notion of the ability of the Hittite to absorb the gods of conquered lands and incorporate them into their own religious base. Another reason for the Hittite having so many divine figures is that their religious efforts were not synchronized in any means. While it is true that the Queen Puduhepa did attempt to centralize all religious figures related to the Hittite religion, there was massive push-back from the population.

This caused many overlapping versions of the same god. It is important to recognize that though Anatolia was a unified country in this period, the people of this land spoke several different languages and were virtually isolated from neighboring lands. This lack of communication and exposure to alternate belief structures or ideas left many local populations to adapt gods and goddesses for their own design and to decipher who and what each god was responsible for.

Hittite interactions with their gods were likewise unique. The elements

behind the belief in each individual god and goddess were based in the natural world around them. As the Hittite people were agricultural at their base, their understanding of the natural world was explained using a system of gods and goddesses who had influence over the world around them. A shepherd was mainly concerned with the success of his flock so he prayed to the gods who would be associated with his livestock and the weather he relied upon for his flock's safety. A pregnant mother would find inspiration and comfort in praying to goddess related to fertility. These seemingly simple connections the Hittite were able to draw between the natural world and the divine worked well to help answer the questions that could not be answered in this time.

The Hittite also recognized that life worked on a continuum. As the sun rose and set each day and one crop's seeds led to next year's planting, the Hittite understood the dependence of one element to another. A shepherd saw the importance of grazing his flock in pastures with rich grass in order to fatten each animal and ensure their health. He knew that as his animals stayed in that region, they would leave behind the makings for richer and more fertile soil, which would then help to replenish what he and his flock had taken. That same shepherd understood that if he were to graze too long or too frequently in the same area he would deplete the land and make is useless in later time. The Hittite looked at their religion with the same give and take mentality.

It was a common practice among the Hittite to offer sacrifices to the gods and goddesses they worshipped. The Gods needed sacrifices as a means to sustain themselves. The methods of sacrificial offerings were not unique among the Hittite. If they had the means, the Hittite people would offer a sacrificial offering in the form of an animal which would be ritualistically killed. If this cost was too great for an individual, it was also possible for a person to offer

oil as a means of devotion and favor to the gods.

It was believed that without these ritualistic offerings, the gods themselves would perish. These offerings sustained the gods in much the same manner that a sheep may be sustained on the grass of a prairie that they had previously helped to fertilize. The Hittite recognized that in order for them, as a nation of devoted followers to each of these gods and goddesses, to prosper, the gods themselves must be satisfied. This routine communion with the gods ensured their livelihood and helped to promote a more advantageous future for all the people of Anatolia.

The Hittite, being firm believers in the divine power found in the nature around them, sought out omens as a means for understanding a god or goddess' influence. They paid careful attention to things like the flight of birds and the movement of waves. The Hittite were keenly aware of slight variations in nature and sought out means to use these differences as a way to communicate with holy spirits. While many Hittite were adept at understanding and interpreting these signs, they also employed oracles as a means to understand further and find the deeper meaning behind what the natural world presented.

An oracle is a person trained in the arts of reading and interpreting natural phenomena. One of the most commonly recognized oracles from the past was the Oracle of Delphi, whose prophecies helped to alter the course of Greek history. In the case of Hittite culture, oracles worked closely with the royal family as a means to help the ruling class to make decisions concerning omens that would impact not only the ruling family but also the entirety the realm of Anatolia. Oracles told of coming wars and potential prosperities based upon the signs they witnessed. They were able to divine understanding from the entrails of sacrificial animals and from the images represented by

drops of oil when mixed with water. Regardless of the matter of sacrifice, the Oracle was an important person responsible for the Hittite maintaining a firm understanding of how to read the natural world.

The Hittite had a series of priests and priestesses whom they regarded as sacred among their culture. The role of these people was to act as a link between the human world and the divine. Much of the worshiping of Hittite gods was conducted in dedicated temples that contained visages of the gods being worshiped. The role of priests and priestesses in these temples was to lead the followers in prayer and other devotional acts related to the rituals associated with a particular god. It was the responsibility of the priest or priestess to take care and to nurture the god or goddess to whom they devoted their lives. Often times, it was the case that the godlike visage represented in the dedicated temple would be off limits to the general population and was only to be visited by the devoted series of priests and priestesses entrusted to the god's care. In this way we come to recognize just how systematic and ritualized many of the foundational religious elements of the Hittite religion truly are.

Apart from the dedicated priests and priestesses, the only other human figure entrusted with divine power was the king. The king was regarded as a mediator between the gods and his people. In this role, the king was considered to be the highest ranking priest to the Sun God and was responsible for all interactions between the gods and the remainder of the human population. The king was held to such a grand stature among the population that upon his death, he was raised to the level of a god himself. The same cannot be said for other members of the royal court, which goes to emphasize further the perceived importance of the King as a spiritual being and the head of all religious matters in the Hittite culture.

Another religious custom practiced by the Hittite was the organization of grand festivals. These festivals were both national and local events. Some festivals took place over many locations in accordance with the location of significant religious landmarks related to what events were being celebrated. It was not uncommon for the Hittite to forgo other worldly needs in order to ensure that festival preparations were of the highest caliber. Many times festivals were held to coincide with natural events such as harvests. This made another strong connection between the Hittite people and nature.

Modern examples of harvest based festivals last for a weekend or possibly several consecutive weekends depending on the area and events that are planned. In the time of the Hittite, religious festivals based around harvests could last for over a month and carried extreme cultural significance throughout. These events were designed to show deference to the gods and goddesses the Hittite people attributed to either their great success now or in the future. Another aspect of these festivals was the further cement the importance of the King as a leader and cultural figurehead within the Hittite faith. These national festivals sought to not only signify the king's importance, but they also acted as a means to further influence the population that the decisions made by the royal line would ensure that events in the coming growing season or perhaps the next war would act in the favor of the Hittite people.

The Hittite incorporated other rituals apart from the celebration of festivals at harvest times. These rituals were used to aid in the transition from one stage of life to the next. The Hittite had rituals centered around major life events such as birth and puberty. It has also been observed that there were several separate ritualistic ceremonies related to the death of an individual. Another notion that is of interest when examining the ritualistic behaviors of the Hittite religion is that some rites were performed in order to restore a person

to a position they once held before. It is not clear in what ways these people may have been removed from this previous station, whether as a punishment for committing evil deeds or a grievous error, but there were indeed rituals aimed at bringing this person back from the depths of despair. The Hittite also believed that the performance of certain rituals could alleviate or aid them in other matters. Issues such as sickness, infertility, and family turmoil all had particular rituals attributed to them that, when performed in accordance with the Hittite faith, could help an individual to overcome these issues.

At the base of the Hittite religion were two central divine figures, the Storm God and the Sun Goddess. These gods were revered most among the one thousand gods and goddesses recognized by the Hittite.

<u>Notable Gods and Goddesses:</u>

Sun God – King of all gods

Storm God – Son of the Sky God, Kumarbis

Named Teshub or Hatusa

Eventually became the supreme overlord of Heaven and Earth

Controlled all weather patterns

Controlled Fertility

Natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes were an example of his anger

Lived in the far away mountains and traveled in a chariot pulled by bulls

Sky God - Kumarbis, known as the Father of all Gods

The Hittite practiced cremation at times and held earthen burial at other times.

Chapter 4: Notable Things About Hittites

The Hittites formed one of the most notable civilizations in human history, with a large history and a lot of contributions to the human race, there are a lot of notable features about the Hittites. The ancient mysteries about this civilization are revealed to the history lovers through the archeological discoveries. When it comes to the Hittites, some historians claim them to be the shepherds who traveled from the north of the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea. While other experts claim the Hittites to be the most gruesome warriors who swept into the Middle-East with their modern weaponry. It was difficult to defeat them as they had the strong tactics to deal with their enemies.

How was the Hittites Civilization discovered?

For a long period, a majority of the historians did not have strong and substantial data to write or talk about the Hittites and their civilization. They were counted amongst the innumerable tribes who belonged to the obscure sections of the Biblical literature. It was around 1830s an archeologist named Charles Texier came across the ruins of Hattusha. This is the modern day Boghazkoy, which is in Turkey. However, his discovery went unnoticed.

It was after some time, several historians, as well as archeologists, picked up interest in the Hittites. They began unearthing ruins and inscriptions that belonged to their period in several parts of Anatolia, which is also known as the Asia Minor. This is how they put all the pieces together and realized that the Hittites must have been a rich civilization that spanned from the banks of

the Euphrates River to the Aegean Sea. It received further importance when a British Assyriologist named Reverend Archibald Henry Sayce mentioned about this civilization and its empire in his lecture in the year1882.

How big was their kingdom?

What's interesting to note is that the Hittites kingdom was back then known to be Hatti. But several historians do not consider them amongst the Hittites and tag them as the Hattians as they were different from the Hittites. Even though both the communities inhabited exactly the same location up to the beginning of 2nd BC, the historians segregate them on the basis of language spoken. Thus, the Hattians spoke a non-Indo-European language which is known to the linguists as Hattic.

The data and information available about the Hittites kingdom was discovered within the last 100 years. It mentions, when the kingdom of Hittite was at its peak, it ruled the central Anatolia, Ugarit, northwestern Syria, Babylon, and Mesopotamia. This rule was known to have lasted for a period from 1680 BC to approximately 1180 BC. Around the 1180's, the Hittites region got divided into various independent city-states. Few of them were known to have survived till the 700 BC.

Since they were the warriors, they fought several wars to expand their territories. The regions which they attacked the first were their rivals and the ones who threatened them. When it comes to the geographical limits of their kingdom, there are various references in the 'Christian Old Testament'. It is has repeatedly been seen in the 'Hebrew Tanakh' that they considered Egypt to be the adversaries of the Israelites and even their God. Hence, Egypt was one of these territories that were attacked by the Hittites.

The modern day historians and scholars divided their kingdom into three periods initially.

1) The Old Kingdom - 1700-1500 BCE
2) The Middle Kingdom - 1500 - 1400 BCE
3) The New Kingdom or the Hittite Empire - 1400-1200 BCE

1) Old Kingdom:

Historians claim that the Old Hittite Kingdom began in 1700 BCE when Hittite King Anitta of Kussara sacked Hattusa. Even though King Anitta conquered the city it was referred as ‘land of Hatti’ because it was a powerful land since 2500 BCE. The king had burned the city and cursed everyone living in it. He even cursed anyone who attempts to build it again. But soon, another king Hattusili I from Kussara, re-built the city. It was his symbolic expression to establish the prominence of Hattusa. Scholars have found an ancient document – ‘The Edict of Telepinu’ which belonged to the 16th century BCE. It states that King Hattusili was a brave warrior and ruled over a vast empire. There is a passage which claims that Hattusili aimed to unify his kingdom and he was largely successful at it. However, his sons rebelled and used their power and resources entrusted to them for the rebellion. Towards the end when Hattusili was on his deathbed, he chose his grandson as heir to his kingdom. However, the grandson turned out to be an ineffective leader. He invaded other regions merely for loot and not establishing political control over the region.

2) The Middle Kingdom:

Telepinu was the last ruler of the ‘Old Kingdom’. A very long phase of bad rule between the ‘Old’ and the ‘New’ kingdom is known as the ‘Middle Kingdom’. No clear records are available about which ruler held the throne for how long. Historians assume that there is an obscurity of data as the Hittites must have been attacked constantly. It is only from the rule of

Suppiluliuma, the proper records about the ‘New Kingdom’ are available for study.

3) New Kingdom:

The New Kingdom is also is known as the Hittite Empire begins with King Suppiluliuma I who was crowned in 1344. He dominated the region of the Middle East around the 14th century BC. He is said to have ruled for about four decades and was known for his improved defenses. There were extended city walls and enclosed area that spread over 120 hectares. Under his rule, the kingdom expanded to the farthest northern Syrian cities. Suppiluliuma I died of the plague and was succeeded by Arnuwanda II, who too died from the plague. Automatically, the reign fell into the lap of his younger brother Mursilli II. While no one took this new king seriously and considered him to be a child, they were taken aback when he displayed his exemplary skills as a statesman.

He conquered several tribes which threatened his kingdom and was the first one to secure the Hittite borders. The last ruler of the Hittites’ empire was Tudhaliya IV. Around this time, the Assyrians were strengthening their army and gaining political control. They challenged the Hittites and defeated Tudhaliya IV, which resulted in the decline of the Hittite Empire.

Hittites can be credited for setting up peace treaties and alliances. This civilization established pacts with their neighboring regions to maintain cordial relations and diplomacy. So, if you look at this civilization carefully, it has set up an example in international politics.

How was their Legal System?

It is interesting to learn about the legal system of the Hittites civilization. They brought tremendous changes in the laws that were set by the Old

Babylonians. The most informative data available to us about the Hittites is their laws and decrees which were found explicitly written on clay tablets.

As compared to the Babylonians or the Mesopotamians, the Hittites were considerate, liberal and merciful. Though there was a heavy penalty against rebellion, they rarely practiced death penalties. Their main aim was to maintain a central authority which was less rigid and despotic. While the Old Babylonian legal system was extremely stringent and practiced capital crimes for even getting rowdy, the Hittites had such punishment ordained for a handful of crimes. Even a person accused and proved for premeditated murder would be punished with a very large sum as a fine, but they never engaged in death penalties.

The law made the criminal to compensate the victims. With the most favorable solution, the justice would be served to the victim. What is even more interesting to note is that the law took efforts to distinguish between accidental crimes and premeditated or purposeful ones.

When it comes to land laws, it is unclear whether the subjects have rights over the property or not. While some experts claim that this liberal civilization gave land rights even to its slaves, there are some historians who came up with a view otherwise. They claimed that the individuals were given individual rights and control over the land, however, the land always belonged to their monarch. The subjects will have to serve in the army in return for the land rights. This way the majority of the Hittites population was actually practicing tenant farming.

Hittite Festivals

The daily rituals that the Hittites performed for their deities were bringing in food and drinks for them. Temples was the place where the gods and goddesses were believed to live, and each of them had a separate space to

sleep. The Hittites also celebrated festivals on a small as well as large-scale. The festivals that came monthly were celebrated on a small scale while some were celebrated on a large scale yearly. The supreme priest presented the rituals that were performed at the festivals. To entertain the people during festivals, old women performed magic that entertained people of every class. The magic activities included sorcery and cast spells.

Hittite culture

When any member of the royal family passed away, his/her body was burned inside the temple. The main reason for doing so was the belief that burning the body of the powerful person inside the temple would help the soul to remain within the temple walls. This made the Hittites worship the kings after their death.

Hittite Empire

Hittites lived in the place that is called modern Turkey and northern Syria now. All that people know about this civilization is through ancient texts that have been recovered. During the start of the 20th century BC, the first sign of their existence was recovered in Hatti. That is the place where they established the city of Nesa. The Hittite influence grew immensely, and they were in power for around three hundred years. A true Hittite Empire was born in the 17th century BC.

Labarna is the person who found the original Hittite kingdom. The succeeding rulers expanded the kingdom to Anatolia and also across the Mediterranean Sea. The kingdom became so strong that in 1595 BC they even raided Babylon, which was at that time, known to be one among the strongest kingdom. One thing that staggered the kingdom was a lack of

concise customs for progression of rulers. After 120 years of ruling, the kingdom began to crumble.

The Hittite empire had a number of strong kings in power that played a very important in expanding the kingdom and take it to the next level. Below mentioned are the names if a few leaders and their achievements:

King Suppiluliumas I

Achievement: Defeated the Mittanian kingdom to set up Hittite Empire

King Labarnas II

Achievement: United the people to set up the Hittite capital at Hattusa.

King Mursilis

Achievement: Won control over the trading routes of Syria and reached Babylon.

King Hattusillis III

Achievement: Concluded the peace treaty with the Egyptians

King Muwattlalis

Achievement: Fought with the Ramases' troops till the end at Kadesh.

The Hittite empire fell after the attacks from the Archaen Greeks as well as sea people. Most of the kingdoms in the empire were conquered by the attackers, but a few smaller kingdoms in Asia Minor and Syria survived until the seventh century. After the downfall of the Hittite empire, it was run by the Neo-Assyrian Empire.

Hittite legacy

The Hittite legacy is limited and the civilization was lost until it was discovered recently. They have a small mention in the Bible and are remembered as strong warriors. They are even known for their sharp pointed shoes and turned up toes. This is seen in a number of carvings as well as paintings that are found by the archeologists. The kind of shoes that they wear is till date seen on people in Turkey as a ceremonial dress.

Hittite politics

Clay tablets and records have revealed a lot about the Hittite politics. The clay tablets found marked the two most important events of the Hittites – dismissal of the legendary city of Troy from Iliad, and the death of Egyptian pharaoh Tutankhamen. What helped establish the city of Troy? The political party on the east of Asia Minor helped and managed to get the City of Troy.

During the middle of the 14th century, the most powerful Hittite king, Suppiluliuma I, surrounded the city of Carchemish. This is the city that had the control over the trade route. The King was asked by the queen of Egypt to send one of his sons to Egypt to be the king of Egypt and her new husband. The king took a long time to mull over and discuss. The peace treaty between the two powerful empires couldn’t be arranged for almost 70 years. The main reason behind this is that an Egyptian priest held the widow and her throne into custody.

A system that has a monarch acting as a non-party political head of the state under the constitution is referred as a constitutional monarchy. The Hittites are known to have had the very first constitutional monarchy. It consisted of a king, his royal family and the pankus. These were the ones known to monitor all the activities carried out by the king. A lesser known fact about the monarchy is that they also made many advances in justice and legislation.

Hittite Laws

The Hittites were the ones to introduce Hittite laws. Though they were strict, they were against a death penalty for any mistake made. The penalty was very nominal, and the accused was just punished to learn a lesson for life. For instance, the punishment given for theft was to repay the amount stolen with something extra.

Though some laws made distinctions between ‘this side of the river’ and ‘that side of the river’, not many living there were against the king and the monarchy on a whole. For instance, the reward that an individual would get to catch the accused once he crossed Halys was more than the reward given if the slave was caught before he could even reach the river.

Agriculture

Agriculture was said to be the main livelihood of people in Hittites. The standard of value here was the metal silver. But all the payments were made in grain. They also had a banking system which made credit available for all those who could not afford much. The prosperity here depended mainly on controlling the trade routes and the consideration of the metal sources. This is mainly because they had large deposits of copper, silver and lead ore. They were also known to be the most important providers of copper and bronze to Mesopotamia.

Livestock like horses, sheep, cattle and goats were considered to be commercial goods under this civilization. Agricultural goods included barley, wheat, grapes, and olives. Honey bees were raised as there was a big demand

for the products in the market. The main crop of this culture was barley. With the extended influence in Syria, the Levant and the upper Euphrates, they were successful in controlling all the trade to and from Mesopotamia. But one drawback faced here is that they developed a state of conflict with the Egyptians.

Timber and trees were plentiful, and they were said to cover up the highest areas of central Anatolia some thousands of years ago. Moving towards Syrian and Anatolian Maquis you will find oak and pistachio associations as they dominate the area.

Though the number and kind of trees growing in Hittites were uncertain the Hittite texts are said to contain 15 logograms and 20 terms for all the many trees and shrubs, present there. According to these texts, it was certain that the trees here included deciduous and conifer trees both. Deciduous trees included some varieties of oak, whereas the conifers included fir, pine and juniper.

Fruit trees were also present in a wide variety. These included grape vines, the olives, the apple, fig and lastly the mountain apple. Though pomegranate is mentioned in most of the ritual texts, there are no texts that refer to the cultivation of trees. There were many condiments mentioned in the texts which included recipes of food preparation. The list includes chickpeas, lentils, beans, bitter vetch, onions, garlic, cucumbers, coriander, asafetida and lot more. Lettuce and garden cress is also to be included here.

Excavations found that wheat and barley was found in several varieties. Barley was then processed into beer, which was used in cooking some porridge and bread for consumption. It was used as fodder to some extent. Many Hittite properties had numerous olive trees, a vineyard, and fig trees.

In a list of fruit trees mentioned, ‘pomegranate’ is termed as ‘mountain

apple.’ They are mentioned in the texts as well. Many texts suggest that these fruits could be consumed but not harvested. Wheat was one commodity which was used to bake bread, and the flour was sprinkled on to cooked dishes. Some variety of nuts such as almonds and pistachios were readily available then. Sesame or linseed was used for its oil.

Domesticating Animals

Hittites had many wild animals like bears, wolves, foxes, hare, several different types of cats like lions, panthers, leopards and many others. The fauna of this place consisted of deer, wild boar, gazelles, wild ox or buffalo, bees, fish, and several other types of reptiles. Hittite diet included meat as hunting and fishing were allowed. Meat from several other wild animals was included in the diet. Birds, fish, and rabbits would require the least effort to catch and thus could be included in the daily diet. People also dried the meat so that it could be consumed later in the days when nothing much was available to eat.

One commonly eaten animal was deer. The domesticated animals in Hittites included sheep, goats, cattle and water buffalo, mules, donkeys, horses, donkeys, dogs and much more. People occasionally hunted birds for eating. Usually only cattle, sheep, goats and some other birds were slaughtered for their fresh meat. Those who kept chickens harvested eggs.

Using Water

There were three water sources which were used for drinking, watering animals, irrigating fields, and washing. These included rivers, springs, and other collected rainwater. MaraManta was the principal river in the Hittite. It now corresponds to the modern Kizil Irmak, which is the classical Halys

River. Zuliya and Kurnmesmaha in the north were the two other rivers that were used. Not many used these for traveling and transportation as they were hardly navigable in their upper courses. But for all the mentioned activities these sources were used. Springs everywhere was worshiped a lot. Here shrines and fountains were also said to be built. A few believed the springs and rivers to be female, rather than male deities.

Food Habits

A lot of people exploited this natural resource not only for cooking but for constructing habitats and gaining protection against enemies. As the vast population here were farmers the use of water from the natural resources was too much. The main botanical food products included cereals, vegetables, nuts, fruits, and wine from the vineyards.

The honey that the Hittites used was not any vegetable syrup, but real bee honey. It was used as a sweetening agent by a lot of households. Wax was used to seal vessels so that the flavor and the odor of the contents did not vanish. It was applied to the body parts as a purification therapy from all the evils and uncleanness.

Dairy Products

Milk and cheese were used in many different ways for the foods cooked. Both types of milk were consumed and these included sweet as well as sour. The cheese was sometimes and important ingredients in bread for many local people. Not many could reproduce cheese and other expensive commodities and therefore got it on a barter basis. This could include an exchange of animals, cereals or any grain that is grown.

For milk, Hittites raised sheep. Milk, fat, and wool were some reasons for raising this animal. Cattle were raised for milk, hides, horns, meat and to

plow, wagons, and human transportation. Though the meat was a rare commodity, a normal family had to slaughter their cattle at least for once so that they get food to eat.

For procuring food hunting was not a common activity. It was said to be a sport that was enjoyed by the Kings. It was only slaughtered and eaten when somebody won in a game of hunting.

Using Salt

Salt was valuable as it could not only be used as a flavor for food but also as a preservative. It was a commodity obtained from outcroppings of the cliffs. The season food here was fat of slaughtered sheep and pigs.

The Hittites have left a lot of information regarding the preparation of food. It also includes rules elaborating how the food was to be prepared, and cooked and then served. The major ingredient of the cuisine was dairy products, meat, grains, and some other natural products like honey. They loved to eat bread and therefore had many recipes. They also had approximately 150 types of bread baked in different shapes and with varied ingredients. This showed that the Hittites were fond of their food and did not mind experimenting with it.

Hittite Garments & Clothing

The Hittites were known to have gender specific clothing like most of the civilizations that existed during that period. A majority of the clothes were made of wool and linen. In fact, the Hittites were also known to use leather for making belts. Women usually had a garment that covered their entire body, whereas men had short kilts. There was a distinction in the headgear worn by men and women as well. The women mostly had a scarf that covered their heads. Unlike other items that were worn, the ornaments and jewelry

were usually the same when it came to both genders among the Hittites.

There was a variety of clothing during that period and different people wore depending types of clothes depending on their sex, position in the society and the jobs they did. Most of the priests were known to have a specific dressing with shaven heads. It was believed that the hair could contain dirt that would contaminate the place of God hence the priests had completely shaven heads.

Importance of Hygiene

Personal hygiene is something a lot of people are paying attention to these days, however the Hittites were known give importance to personal hygiene thousands of years ago. There were outdoor latrines created so as to help people have access to sanitation facilities, at the same time, the rich also had private pot chambers for the same. The sanitation was particularly high among people who served the God and the kings. There is evidence that everyone on these duties had a checklist to adhere to for their hygiene and sanitation. In the event of rule violations, there were extremely severe punishments determined for the same. Sometimes these punishments could even mean a death sentence.

It is believed that an average family had a couple of meals every day. One meal was at the beginning of the day while the second was after returning from work. The richer people would have had more frequent meals during the day. The exact food that was consumed by the Hittites is not known precisely.

Houses and Buildings

The Hittites were known to have reasonably strong houses made from stones, mud bricks and timber wood. The roofs of the houses were usually flat made from mud and wood. The roof was usually supported by timber beams. They

also made regular changes to the house to protect themselves during the rainy season. Most houses had small windows that were usually high and covered in order to keep the inner part of the house warmer during the winters. People used different types of clothes to cover the windows.

Most houses also had a separate cooking area with an indoor hearth or an oven like mechanism for cooking. Some of the remains show that the kitchen areas in the houses had sinks that were further connected to drains. A bathroom was also a common thing in the Hittites house. The bathing area usually had a lot of clay used for construction. Most households did not have wooden furniture like beds or chairs and tables.

Hittite houses had chests that were used to keep the clothes and the valuables. There were also a lot of decorative pieces that were usually made of ceramic materials. While the common artifacts in middle-class houses included vases and bowls, the richer houses had ceramic sculptures that included animals and birds. Some of the sculptures included animals like the lion and birds like an eagle.

Each house had an area in front that was like a personal yard that was used to carry out a range of domestic activities. The yards had stairs that led to the upper story of the house. Hittites also constructed gutters to help drain the rainwater away from the walls of the house. In fact a lot of focus was put on water management even while town planning by the Hittites. The streets had drainage channels constructed that helped them to manage the water coming from each house. These drainage channels were usually built from clay connecting various houses and the main drainage channel.

Hittites also showed a lot of town planning with houses usually present in blocks just as we see communities or townships built today. When built as blocks, most houses had common walls as well. The streets were usually

created around these blocks having the drainage system running under them. To construct houses on slopes, the Hittites used a terracing system that allowed them to ensure the structural integrity as well as helped manage water flow during the rainy seasons.

Other than the houses of individuals the Hittites communities also had large buildings of note including the temples. Usually, there were surrounding spaces and areas that were used to store materials for the temple. There were also a number of large vessels that were placed near the larger buildings to facilitate the storage of items.

Overall the Hittites not only had well-built houses and buildings, but they also created an infrastructure around themselves that allowed them to ensure that their buildings were well preserved and were easy to access and manage.

Livelihood

A livelihood is a basic need for any individual. It is the way he/she would get shelter, food and protection for his/her family and self. Most of the Hittites were known by their names and occupation or simply their occupation. The occupation of the child was usually decided by the occupation of his father. The son of a trader became a trader, the son of a carpenter became a carpenter. However, this legacy was not a given in case the parent was a part of the royal committee or held a certain rank in the palace. It is also understood that in case a father wanted his child to move to a profession, he could pay an expert to take his son as an apprentice under him.

A certain section of the society worked exclusively for the Kings or the temples whereas the others were individual workers who made a living of their craft. Often a master would have slaves who would work for a pre-designated fee.

Marriage

The Hittites married their daughters as soon as they reached the puberty stage. In most cases the husbands were decided since their childhood. It was usually a 3-step process, the first involved a verbal agreement between the parents of the prospective bride and groom. This usually happened when the bride and groom were kids. The second stage involved the husband giving a ‘kusata’ which was the bride price. This formalized the verbal agreement between the families. Evidence shows that marriages usually involved an exchange of gifts between the families. The third stage was finally the marriage where the girl was given gifts from her parents. The dowry system seems to have been prevalent with the girl being gifted during the marriage. These gifts were usually equivalent to her inheritance from her parents. It is also understood that in case the bride's family disagreed with the marriage post the kusata, they were liable to pay back double the amount to the groom as per the law. In the entire process of the marriage, all decisions were made by the elders and the consent of the bride and groom was not needed.

It is not much known about the various ceremonies or the ritual practiced by them. Also, the same did not apply to throne heirs as they would often get into marriage as adults after consenting with the royal priests. There is some evidence about how the princes were treated on puberty before marriage, but that in no way resembles how the Hittites would usually get married.

Death & Burial

Hittites identified death as an inevitable part of life. Upon death the bodies were buried with the ancestors or in the same house where the next generation of the family lived. The concept of death among the Hittites was closely associated with family cohesiveness. If a Hittite was killed away from his home, the killer was supposed to get the body of the deceased to his home

in order to get the burial process done. This was a law that was widely prevalent in those times. The burial process however is largely unknown.

They also followed cremation to a certain extent. It is believed that towards the latter part of the Hittite period, the royal family was mostly cremated. In fact, during those times a majority of the population was known to be cremated as opposed to being buried. After death a tangible part of the deceased was always preserved for sentimental purposes. There has been no written discovery about the death and burial process among the Hittites. All the above given information is from the various other findings which portrayed these as a part of the overall picture of the way that the Hittites lived.

A lot of facts about the Hittites suggest that they were a civilization that was very advanced and used a lot of key ingredients in their livelihood that we even use today. A notable thing about the Hittites civilization is the fact that they were able to evolve over a period of time to have survived in an era and region when they have very powerful neighbors.

Chapter 5: Secrets And Unknown Facts About Hittites

The kingdom of Hittite was located in the central Anatolian Plateau. It is also called as the land of Hatti. Hittite empire and society began around 1700 BCE that is (Before the Common Era). Hittite kingdom lasted for around 500 years that is till the late Bronze Age. Lesser known facts about the Hittites are that apart from Anatolia, they also conquered western edge of Mesopotamia and northern Syria. People may not know, but they made maximum use of natural resources like fresh water, fish, clays, and metals.

Hittite vassal state - the city of Troy

Apart from Arzawa land, even Troy was the vassal state of the Hittites. Today such state is also called a puppet state or an associated state.

Destruction of this city took place in 1250 BC but it is believed that earthquake destroyed the city and not any kind of war.

It is believed that there must be some evidence in the Hittite records about the city Troy. The reason behind such belief is that Troy is considered to be the important regional center. At the edge of the Hittite empire, this place is located.

According to the Australian Hittitologist Trevor Bryce, Wilusa which is the name of a kingdom in western Anatolia was considered to be the ancient name for Troy. This information was given with the reference of Hittite tablets. Hittite tablets like clay tablets were used in that era as a writing medium. This allowed archeologist to get more information on vassal state Troy. Nothing can be clearly proved because even tablets don't provide clear information about the geographical location of the Wilusa.

It required archeologist to get detail information about Wilusa in order to know whether it is the city of Troy or not. It became important for them to know more about the geographical location of the place.

An ancient sculpture of a human figure in the rock was viewed in the Karabel. It became very important to know more about the inscription of the sculpture. Professor David Hawkins got a right breakthrough. He identified the human figure and translated that the sculpture was the king of a western country that is named as Mira.

This sculpture clearly indicated the connection of Mira's northern border with Seha River Land. Thus, it can be said that the kingdom was extended towards the Northwest of Anatolia. The letter written by the king of Seha River to

Hittite made it easy to locate the kingdom of Wilusa.

Northwest corner of the Turkey is the only possible location for the Wilusa that is considered to be the precise location for the city Troy. Thus, the conclusion is that Wilusa and Troy are one and the same.

In tablets, political relations have also been specified. A treaty was discussed, that occurred between the great king Musattalli and a man Alaksandu. This treaty clearly describes that the Wilusa was the vassal state. You can draw the conclusion that, even Troy was the vassal state. Vassal state Troy can be the ruler rather than just the state itself.

Troy was the rich trading center. This vassal city was large and wealthy. It was probably the multi-ethnic city.

The Hittites language - Indo-European language

Within the territory of Hittite, nine languages were used. Two main things that people should know relate to the languages used for communication and the literature purpose. For communication, Akkadian language is being used. For literature, Sumerian language is being used.

What is the language family of the Hittites? An Anatolian branch of the Indo-European was the family language of the Hittites. Communication system here was different because spoken and written languages used were different. Thus, it can be said that the language system of Hittite empire is different. Written and spoken languages are conquered from the people of the different background.

Indo-European is the oldest form of spoken language that was used by Hittites. This language originated from the Sanskrit language. When it comes to written format, Hittites adopted a tradition from Mesopotamia and wrote their language in cuneiform.

It is not the known fact that the Hittites called their language as Nesite or not. Nesite was named after the city Nesa. Still, it is called as Hittite. In the early Bronze Age, immigrants from the Southwest Anatolia used Luwian as a spoken language along with Nesite.

Looking at the cuneiform tablets, it can be said that Hittite is considered to be an Anatolian language. Even if you look at the inscriptions created by the Hittite kings, it mainly witnesses the Anatolian language called Hittite used by the kings. Hieroglyphic Luwian is another name of a script that is called as Hieroglyphic Hittite. Other languages that are the branch of Anatolian language are Palaic, Milyan, Sidetic, Lydian, Pisidian, Lycian, Luwian, and Carian.

Some features that Hittite language lacks are differentiating between masculine and feminine gender. In this language, you can find errors related to grammar, optative moods, subjunctive and several such aspects.

Luvian is considered to be the best language among all. In central Anatolia, non-Indo and Indo-European Hattian were the spoken languages. Hittite may be described as the most prestigious spoken language by the ruling class people. Research indicates that this language was further used as a language of law and administration. Luvian may have later become the ordinary language of the Hittite society.

The cuneiform writing style was used for Hittite language which was borrowed from the Akkadians. Akkadians borrowed this writing style from the Sumerians. As Latin was the ancient language in medieval Europe, similarly Sumerian and Akkadian were the ancient languages of Hittite.

Talking about Luvian language, just like Hittite even Cuneiform Luvian was written in the same format. If you look at Hieroglyphic Luvian, then there were certain symbols used unlike that of cuneiform. Looking at history, it can

be said that during the neo-Hittite period Luvian was the mainly used language.

Haitians an earlier population that occupied the Asia Minor region should not be confused with the Hittites

In South Western part of Asia, Asia Minor is the geographic region which is considered as the present day Turkey. According to geography books, Anatolia is known as Asia Minor Asian Turkey. Haitians are the inhabitants. These ancient people inhabited the land of Hatti. Hittites and Haitians are not similar. Don't get confused between these two terms. During the empire of Sargon of Akkad in 2300 BC, the group of Haitians was documented. In 2000-1700 BC it was gradually overtaken by the Indo-European Hittites.

Some research indicates that Haitians were indigenous tribes. Hittite studies say that they were not the original tribes. It is said that they may have moved to the Northern part of Central Anatolia. This may have occurred during or after the appearance of Indo-European tribes in Asia Minor. You can say that this incidence must have occurred in the middle of the third millennium BC.

According to linguistics and archeological data, it is assumed that Haitians entered in Anatolia from the North-Western Caucasus. Thus, their language may have belonged to the language of Caucasian family. This conclusion was drawn after carrying out research work on etymological studies and with little guesswork.

It is assumed that Haitians must have developed contact with the nearby population while moving to the central Anatolia. Researchers say that Haitians language had definitely some connection with the Hittite and Palaic language. No connection between Luwian that is third Anatolians Indo-European language and Haitian language can be proven. It is said that if Haitians were in contact with the parent Anatolian Indo-European language,

then this connection should have been visible in the Luwian language. There is no such connection, visible in the language.

The merging of Indo-European and Haitian tribes was the result of mutual contact between Hittites and Haitians. Haitians were incorporated with the Hittites because they took the upper hand by the 18th century BC. Their influence can be found in the Hittites, in terms of religion and mythology. Haitians, the ethnic group, practically vanished from Anatolia by the 17th century BC. After they disappeared, their language became dead. It was further adopted by the Hittites to keep the record of religious myths and text.

Thus, it can be said that Hittites and Haitians are different.

The Hittites art information

In Asia Minor, Hittites were considered to be the master in art. Their main blooming period for art was around 1450 to 1200 BC. At the beginning of the 11th century, their art merged with the Syrian art.

Different aspects of cultures were assimilated by the Hittites. In their artwork related to the male, you can find pointed hats, boots, short skirt robes and curling toes. In female related artwork you can find square hats and pleated robes. Such artwork was adopted by Syrian gods and pantheon of Mesopotamian.

Do you know that the Hittites were known mainly as metalworkers and carvers? Yes, it is the well-known fact. In order to create monuments; they adopted Babylonian cuneiform in their language. This made it easy for them to elaborate hieroglyphic script.

When it comes to artwork, animals, and human activities were found in the form of figures. Presentation of royal life, hunting scenes, king’s family procession, vase paintings were found in their artwork among other things.

Vases in animal shapes were found in their culture. In 19th century BC, a boot-shaped vase was used. Definitely, in their artwork, you can find more animal figures. It is said that their main concern was to create figures related to human activities and religious rituals. The carving created by them denoted hunting figures. Figures and cuneiform inscriptions were commonly found in Hittites artwork that also defined neighboring cultures. Hieroglyphic script was mainly adopted to engrave monuments.

Artwork was also seen in temple structures and city walls. In this type of artwork, Hittite civilization was visible. Wall paintings were practiced while creating building interiors. Gold and Bronze ornamental work was also a part of their artwork. Amazing metalwork and silver drinking vessels were also found in that era.

Hittites were good carvers along with amazing metal workers. The archives of Hittites consisted of several stone tablets that were inscribed with Mesopotamian cuneiform letters. The Semitic language was used while creating such carving. Hattusa, Alacahoyuk, Ferzant, Inandik and Alistair are a few important sites of Hittite artwork.

Rock sculptures and portal sculptures were quite popular, and the figures carved showcased the proficiency of the artists. Some of the visual art works created by the Hittites were inspired from several places.

The Hittite capital was located over a rocky gorge. Good architectural work was done over the double walls and defensive towers. Gateways were bordered by statues. Sphinxes and Lion statues were found at the gateways. The Hittites were quite ahead when it comes to sculptures in comparison with the Persians who also created tombs and sculptures. Open cliffs and vertical faces of rocks were carved by the Hittites. Decorated gates of Hattusa, showcases genius artwork related to stone sculpture created by the Hittites.

Hittites were extremely good at creating the artwork, a fact that remained hidden till recently. Some of the art pieces found from their times show a high level of skills for fine artwork and attention to detail. A lot of the artwork was also used by rich people as decorative in the house.

Hittites discovered iron

The Hittite civilization borrowed lots of ideas from other cultures. But, they made two great contributions to humankind, among which first one was the use of iron.

Tools and weapons were traditionally forged using copper and bronze which being soft materials, blend easily. However, this is not the case with Iron as it is one of the hardest materials. On top of that extracting iron for use is much more complex in comparison to other metals. The procedure of extracting iron is referred as smelting.

Exactly, where and when the iron was extracted or smelted is actually a mystery. However, the fact that is agreed upon is that the real iron metallurgy started with the Hittites.

The Hittite empire was the first empire to discover iron. They used it for making tools and artifacts. The Hittites were considered to be the influential force for the Iron Age. Iron became their military power in around the 17th century B.C. after being weakened and beaten around the 13th century B.C.

The Hittites were able to conquer lots of territory due to the weapons made out of iron. Along with that, iron also helped Hittites in attaining economic prosperity. It is for this reason that they considered iron five times more precious when compared to that of gold. They also considered iron around eight times more precious when compared to silver.

Hittites made iron weaponry and for this, they were considered to have

formidable military forces. However, iron was not only be used for making functional weaponry; rather it was used for ceremonial and other artifacts.

Another aspect associated with Hittites and Iron that is usually discussed is the way in which the Hittites were able to guard their knowledge of iron. Keeping the creation of the metal a secret was one of the prime factors in making them very successful at war with the use of stronger weapons. It is believed that the secret-keeping happened due to a variety of reasons, intentional and unintentional.

Like a lot of the early civilizations, Hittites did not have a high literacy rate which meant that the knowledge base they had was not easy to pass on. While this was not good for the overall development, but served as an asset as some of the secrets like iron were not easy to pass out. Also in those times there were guilds which meant that the resources for making and using iron were limited to a group of people involved in the activity. Everyone outside the guild would have been totally unaware of how and what was happening. Also in those times, people were scared to go outside the guild or leak secrets as the punishments for such acts were pretty severe as well.

Weapons used by Hittites

The Hittites made use of very advanced weaponry which allowed them to defeat very easily and conquer their enemies that came in their way. Some of the weapons used by The Hittites are as follows:

Bow and arrow

The fact is that Hittite chariots were properly equipped using bows and arrows. To make powerful and flexible bow materials like wood and horn were utilized. On the other hand, arrow shafts were made out of wood or reed.

The arrowheads made out of bronze were attached to the shaft by the tang. On the chariots, quivers were utilized which were able to hold around twenty to thirty arrows. Apart from that, special infantry units also utilized arrows and bows.

Chariots

Like Egyptians, the Hittites also utilized chariots. However, the chariot used by them was heavier in comparison to that of the Egyptian chariot. This chariot has an axle in the center under the carrying platform. Due to this, the chariot became slow and less stable when compared to that of the Egyptian chariot.

Hittites chariot was able to carry around three men and was able to dismount and fight as the infantry in the battle. The chariots made by Hittite had shield-bearer for protecting the fighter however this was not the case with Egyptian chariots as it just carried a driver and a fighter.

The chariots were considered to be the supreme weapon of Hittite age. The speed of the horses and the long range of bow and defensive armor made the chariot one of the elite weapons. According to the researchers, it seems that chariots were used in larger units which helped in harassing the enemy with a shower of arrows that could shoot over a long range.

Another way in which chariots helped is by traveling in parallel lines to the enemy lines which helps in showering a lot of arrows. Hence, chariots were considered to be one of their best weapons for fighting.

Bladed weapons

All the soldiers of the Hittite civilization were equipped with the dagger. Dagger is mainly a small stabbing sword that has a wavy blade and curved hilt. This weapon stayed on the body of the soldier. It is with this that the

soldiers of Hittite were always armed. Apart from this, all the other weapons were carried in the baggage-train.

They also used swords in the shape of a sickle and slashing that had blade on the outer edge. Usually, the swords that had curved blades were less prone to snapping in comparison to that of the straight edged sword. Battle axes might also have been used by the infantry. However the fact is that the majority of the axes was dedicatedly used by the Hittites for construction and not for fighting.

Lancing and thrusting

Chariots and infantry made use of medium size spear which was around d six to eight feet long. Chariots made use of spears or lances at the time of moving and infantry weapons for thrusting at the time it was dismounted. A dagger and sickle swords were best suited for close combat fights. The spear was not much used in the mountainous terrain.

Protective tools

Shields were made by Hittite which covered the body from the neck down. These shields were in rectangular shape and had a bit concave sides with a bit convex from top to bottom. These were made from leather which was stretched over the wooden frame. Due to this, it becomes very light when compared to that of the metal shields. Shields were used primarily by the chariots, but not exclusively for it.

The gears of the soldier varied based on the terrain and the condition of the battle. When going on the mountainous terrain infantry used to wear metal helmets, scale or leather armor and also boots. While the soldiers were fighting on the ground, which was an open ground, they fought with the packed phalanx formation.

With the use of these weapons in around 1590 B.C. the Hittites had conquered the strong city of Babylon. With this, they stretched their empire outward into Asia.

The Museum of Anatolian Civilization comprises of the rich collection of Hittite artifacts

The Museum of Anatolian Civilization in Ankara, Turkey, has gained the first position among the sixty-eight museums. This museum has been awarded the title of Museum of the Year in Lausanne, Switzerland on the date 19th April 1997.

Anatolian Civilizations Museum comprises of the original collections and for this reason, it is considered to be one of the best museums throughout the world these days. Anatolian archeological creations are displayed in the chronological order which begins from the Paleolithic Age to the present time.

This museum comprises of the rich collection of Hittite artifacts. In this museum, you will find outstanding Hittite figures of bulls and stags. Hittites were popular for their relief works. The best examples of this are displayed in the museum. There are some mighty slabs denoting the best pieces across the country, from around the Hattusa are displayed. This is displayed in the central room.

There is mention of Hittites in the Bible

People referred to as Hittites are mentioned in the Bible of Israelite history. In the past one hundred years, the archeologist's spade has discovered the Hittite civilization. It has been bound that this civilization is big and also important.

What the Bible has to say about Hittites?

One of the best-known references of Hittites in the Bible appears in Genesis

23. This is the chapter which states that Ephron the Hittite sells Abraham the patriarchal burial ground of Machpelah at Hebron. Ephron stayed with his kinsman that is the children of Heth.

There is frequent mention of Hittites in the Bible by this appellation with a reference to their eponymous ancestor, the second son of Canaan.

Ephron got ready to give the field and cave of Machpelah to Abraham. However, Abraham wanted to make sure that he had a good title and for this reason, he insisted on paying for the cave and field. Ephron, the Hittite then charged him for the entire price which was around four hundred shekel-weights of silver. Abraham paid the asking price.

Abraham then buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field. Later on, Abraham was himself buried there. After that, Isaac, Jacob and Rebecca were buried at Machpelah. It is only Rachel, who died in childbirth while travelling to Canaan was buried somewhere else.

Hittites also have their mention in Joshua, Samuel, Judges, Kings, Ezra and Ezekiel.

Hittites source of entertainment

One of the essential social requirements that Hittites realized was entertainment. The obvious and elemental form of entertainment was music. The research on entertainment says a very little regarding entertainment for general public, however it reflects what was offered to the royal family and the gods.

Singing and playing musical instruments were the normal and inseparable parts during the festivals. The music instruments that were used by the Hittites were drums, cymbals, Iyres, harps, flutes. There is some evidence that shows that musicians played these kinds of instruments.

Lots of athletic contests were famous to spectators. These kinds of contests were performed for the advantage of gods. Some of these contests include boxing, wrestling, foot racing, stone throwing, chariot racing and archery. Some of the relief sculptures reflect the performance of jugglers and sword swallowers. There were also dancers who were whirled about in a manner of later Turkish dervishes.

One of the sports was rope climbing. There is also an evidence of mock battles and ritual drama-occasionally. This also showed that the performers bowed to the audience. In some athletic contests, there are indications that the audiences applauded or cheered the winners.

Recently, two old Hittite relic vases, similar to the ones from Bitik and Inandik were found through the staff of the Corum Museum near Sungurlu, which is north of Boghazkoy. Both of these vases are broken. However, all the pieces are intact. Among these, one is medium-sized, and the other one is large like those excavated from Inandik.

The pieces are now in the Corum Museum wherein the vases are being restored. Now that it has been restored, we can appreciate the scenes of Hittite bull-leaping which reflects the scenes on Minoan frescoes.

In few religious festivals, actors took the get up of mask or other forms of costume for mimicking animals like wolf, bear, and dog. Few scholars believed that there was an official that served the temple and palace for entertaining with the help of humor. The main role was to amuse and entertain.

The entertainment was also done through word play. However, it was mainly through burlesque actions.

Hittites transportation and vehicles

The very primary and basic mode of transportation for Hittites was walking. Apart from walking general Hittites also rode on a donkey or mule. Loads were moved on the donkey back or carts or wagons. In order to draw chariots, horses were chiefly used. Kings and high officials took the ride on chariots. Another mode of ride that was used was the litters. Most of the transportation vehicles were created out of the necessity for accomplishing a certain task.

Chapter 6: The Gods And Goddesses Of The Hittite People

The Gods and Goddesses of the Hittite people and the influence of Mythology on the Hittite culture.

The Hittite Empire was comprised of tradition, religion, and ancient beliefs in multiple Deities and Gods. One of the most fascinating aspects of this culture was their vivid imagination, and they were some of the best storytellers of their time. They influenced myths from Mesopotamia, Greece, and Canaanite. Texts that recorded the Deities the Hittite people worshiped are scarce, and many recorded texts were burned in fires after the Empire fell. Many of the scribes that recorded the stories and myths were able to save a few of the texts from the period; many of these stories were recorded on stones, and several maps of the city have been recovered.

By drawing on the religion of Mesopotamia, the Hittites used a lot of similar elements of the Proto-Indo-European religion in their mythology tales. This religion came from the Indo-European culture believed to have originated in the Bronze Age, around 5,000 years ago. Today it is where the Ukraine and southwestern Russia currently is located. The religion has been found among many cultures. However, slight deviations in each culture have been found. What the myths share in common is many of the underlying beliefs, myths and poetry. These myths often described nature and its cycles throughout the years. How cyclical the world is, how the planets and stars move, the

qualities of water and fire, and fascinations with the sun are some of the topics emphasized in this religion.

The Hittite people were heavily influenced by this religion and began to create myths and traditions based on many of the same beliefs. Included below are some of the most popular Gods and Goddesses and their stories. Understanding the myths and the Deities of the culture further helps you understand what was important to them as a people, what they valued, and how they lived.

Gods, Goddesses, and Myths

Alalu

Alalu is the oldest of the Hittite Gods. He is the original King of the Heavens and the father of Kumarbi. Alalu ruled for nine years and was overthrown by Anu, the sky God (a deity also seen in Sumerian culture. He also heavily influenced the story of Uranus, father of the Titans in Greek Mythology). After Alalu was dethroned, he withdrew from the Heavens and retreated underground, beneath the Earth.

Kumarbi

Witnessing his father overthrown by Anu, after nine years of Anu's rule, Kumarbi overthrew him. During this battle, Kumarbi is said to have bitten off the testicles of Anu, preventing Anu from having a son to overthrow Kumarbi's rule. Anu could no longer have relations with his wife, Daganzipa,

the Earth Goddess, and retreated from the Heavenly world. He did not appear in any other Hittite mythology after this.

During Kumarbi's rule, the sperm inside the testicles Kumarbi had bitten off, grew in his belly into other Deities. After nine years of rule, and stomach problems that ailed Kumarbi, the God of wisdom advised Kumarbi to spit the Deities out, thus releasing Tarhum, Aranzah, Tasmisu, and many others.

Tarhun then overthrew Kumarbi, who then became King of the Underworld. Once King of the Underworld, Kumarbi continued to devise a plan to produce a son of his own to overthrow Tarhun. Kumarbi ruled all the Gods and Goddesses of the Underworld and trained them for battle. Many Hittite myths arose from the great battle of the Heavenly Deities and the Underworld Deities.

This story is very similar to the Greek Myths of Kronos, the Titan that ended up castrating his own father, Uranus. Kronos then swallowed his own children to prevent any of his own children from overthrowing him as he had done to his father. This myth further introduced a cycle, Heavenly Deities battling Underworld Deities, that is reflected in many religions to this day, including Christianity and Islam.

Kumarbi had several children named Illukummi, Hattu, Lamma, and Hedammu, all sons, each of which tried to overthrow Tarhun at one point in time. Each time one of Kumbari's sons attempted to overthrow Tarhun, they were either defeated or dethroned shortly after overthrowing Tarhun.

Aranzah

This God is ruler of the Aranzah River, known as the Tigris River now. This river starts in the Taurus Mountains and continues south into eastern Turkey. The God was brother to the Storm God Tarhun. Both were born in the belly

of the God named Kumarbi.

Tarhun

He was the brother of Aranzah, storm God and King of all the Heavenly Deities, he was the Supreme Diety of the Hittite people. The depiction of the double headed eagle he rode in was adopted as a national symbol by Austria and Russia. Born in the belly of Kumarbi, he led his brothers and sisters in a revolt against Kumarbi to overthrow him as King of the Heavens. Thorn has to battle many attempts to overthrow his rule, continually withstanding attacks from the children of Kumarbi. This battle and period surrounding these battles, as well as the armies of the Netherworld, is what comprises many of the Hittite stories.

Tarhun has regularly been depicted in many Hittite carvings with a three-prong thunderbolt in one hand and holding a battle ax in the other hand. A sword was kept in his scabbard, which was a sheath to hold various weapons or shields. Tarhun had a chariot that was pulled by two bulls named Seri and Hurri. He was married three times to Shaushka, Arinniti and Hatepuna.

The infamous struggle between the giant serpent, Illuyank, and Tartun, has various conflicting accounts, including the final ‘battle’ where Tartun slayed the serpent at his daughter’s wedding feast.

A’as

A’as was the God of Wisdom who plays a very important role in Hittite mythology; A’as is typically depicted advising the various Deities that chose to overthrow the Heavenly God then in power. As a token of appreciation, the Deities that sought A’as’ help would keep A’as close as an advisor. If the

Deity did not continue to respect A’as advice, A’as would formulate a scheme to dethrone them. A’as was able to assist Tarhun in the defeat of Ullikummi, the stone God, and son of Kumarbi.

Ullikummi

Ullikummi, the son of Kumarbi and a female rock Kumarbi mated with, was a stone giant made of Basalt. Tawara, the midwife Goddess, delivered Ullikummi while the Goddesses of Destiny stood watch and created his destiny. The Goddesses of Destiny were called Gulses; the Gulses, named Istustaya and Papaya, were never to reveal the fate of any of the Deities, as a result they typically ruled over each other, ruled by different counsel rather than the Deities.

After Ullikummi was born, as tradition demands, he was placed on the knee of his father and named. Kumarbi’s intention for this son was to dethrone Tarhun, and thus needed to hide him so that he could grow into a man and defeat him. Kumarbi hid Ullikummi on the empty shoulder of Ubelluri. Ubelluri is said to have balanced the Netherworld, the Earth and the sky on his right shoulder.

Ullikummi grew up on the left shoulder of Ubelluri, outside the world of the Heavenly Gods and Goddesses and the Netherworld Gods and Goddesses. However, Ullikummi grew to be so large, that at one point the God of the Sun, Istanu, saw him one day from his place in the sky. Istanu immediately went to Tarhun to alert him of the stone giant, so Tarhun, aided by Zababa, the God of War, and other Heavenly Gods, attacked the stone giant Ullikummi. An epic battle ensued and Ullikummi was able to force Tarhun and the other Gods to retreat. Wife of Tarhun, Shanushka, attempted to seduce Ullikummi and be able to subdue him while Tarhun and the others

prepared to attack. Unfortunately, Ullikummi's heart was as hard as the stone he was made of, and the efforts of Shanushka were thwarted.

A'as, the god of wisdom, was summoned to advise Tarhun and the Deities how to defeat Ullikummi. A'as stated that as long as Ullikummi continued to be nurtured by Ubelluri, that he would not be able to be defeated. Ullikummi needed to be severed from the should of Ubelluri in order to decrease his strength and increase his vulnerabilities. In order to sever Ullikummi from the shoulder of Ubekkuri, the great copper knife, once used to separate the earth and sky, needed to be found. Tarhum and Zababa embarked on a journey to uncover the copper knife and were able to find it. They took the knife and severed Ullikummi at the ankles, separating him from the shoulder of Ubelluri and weakening him significantly. Tarhun was able to defeat Ullikummi, however this epic battle has not been found in the remaining texts of the Hittite people.

Ubelluris

Often referred to as the 'Hittite Atlas', Ubelluris held the sky, earth, and Netherworld on his right shoulder, supporting the various being that occupied each world. He also supported Ullikummi as he grew from a child to adult in order to defeat Tarhun.

He held the earth, sky, and Netherworlds because he was trusted to support these worlds due to his size and his contemplative and calm nature. He was believed to be able to adequately support the worlds while dreaming and contemplating the universe. He is also the God of Dreams and Artwork. He is represented in many drawings and statutes with one hand on his chin while supporting the worlds on his shoulder.

Many believed this God inspired the creation of *The Thinker*, a famous work by Rodin. The theory is that Rodin wanted to depict the pagan God Ubelluris, who was a character in Dante's version of Hell in his novel 'Dante's Inferno'.

Istustaya and Papaya

The Goddesses of Destinies, Istustaya and Papaya, also called the Gulses, resided by the shores of the Black Sea and would spin the destinies of the various Deities; the fates of kings were given special attention and spun very meticulously. The Gulses rarely ever left the shore of the Black Sea, leaving only to attend meetings where all the Gods were present.

Tawara

This is the name of the group that comprised the group of midwives that assisted in delivering the children of the gods. The Tawara were the midwives that created the first Heavenly King, Alula. In some versions of Ullikummi's birth, the Tawara are believed to have delivered Ullikummi and were the ones to hide him on the shoulder of Ullikummi. The midwives are similar to the midwives depicted in Vietnamese myths.

Hannahannah

She is believed to be the wise mother of all of Hittite mythology, associated with Anat from Canaanite myths. Assuming a motherly role, she frequently provides advice to the other Gods and Goddesses as to what action to take when making difficult decisions. Hannahannah is also a key figure in Hittite myths that involved deities that disappear. She also was the negotiator for the

price of the bride when the Sea God's, Aruna's, daughter married the son of the Storm God, Tarhun.

Zababa

The God of War that aided Tarhun in defeating the stone giant, Ullikummi, carried a staff with an eagle head on top and possessed many qualities of the Akkadian God Ninurta. Zababa was known as the most loyal and devoted ally of Tarhun.

Ishara

The Goddess of contracts, vows, oaths and treaties, was the mother of the Sebitti, which are the seven stars known today as the Pleiades in the night sky. The God of War, Zababa, was their father; the Sebitti would accompany their father into the various wars he participated in.

Istanu

The Sun God, he was said to rule over the Sun of the sky, while the Death Goddess Lelwani ruled over the Sun of the Earth because she produced the fires that burned in the under the earth. Istanu is believed to have ridden the sun across the universe and oversaw a flock of sheep and rams. He wore a winged sun on his head dress because he was also the patron Deity of Judges and has often been depicted holding a crooked staff.

There are various myths about Istanu including his gift of two children to a baron couple; one child became evil while the other became good. He also took a cow as his mate and produced a child. He was an ally of Tarhun and was the Deity to warn Tarhun of the stone giant, Ullikummi, when he caught sight of him on Ubelluris' shoulder.

Hapantali

The Goddess of Shepards, she watched over the Sun God, Istanu's, sheep and rams. In another popular myth among the Hittite people, she aided the Moon God, Kaskuh, when he fell from the sky.

Peruwa

A romantic companion of Kumarbi, Reruwa was the Goddess of horses. The origin of her name is debated and unfortunately the fragments of the history of the Hittite people are not able to provide many answers to her origin.

Lelwani

A follower and disciple of Kumarbi, Lelwani ruled over the subterranean land of the dead. She is believed to have influenced the Death Goddess in Hawaiian mythology and the Canaanite myth about the Storm God Baal. A small fragment of Hittite stone remains depicting a story in which Lelwani hosts banquet in the Netherworld for Tarhun who is visiting from the Heaven. The story ends at the meal but is possibly similar to the myth of Baal, who was captured after being invited by the Goddess of Death to a banquet, and disappeared after his meal.

Arinniti

The Goddess of Hearth Fires and Temple Flames, was also the city that centered Arinniti's devotion centered on, hence her being named after the city. The city is located not far from the Hittite capital Hattusa. She is known as the 'sun of the nation' and was the wife of Tarhun. She is also associated with the fires inside the earth due to her relation to fire and flames.

Hattu

One of the sons of Kumarbi, he was the God of Silver, a sacred metal of the Hittite people. Like the other sons of Kumarbi, Hattu attempted to overthrow Tarhun from the throne of the Heavenly Kingdom, however was unable to defeat him.

Hasameli

The God of Forges and Metal-Working assisted King Mursili II in a well known Hittite myth where King Mursili II attacked King Uhhaziti of Arzawa. Hasameli was able to produce smoke created by a forge he made, and used the smoke as camouflage. Under cover of the smoke, Hasameli was able to use his army to attack King Uhhaziti.

Inara

Inara, the Goddess of Wild Animals, was known for her strong loyalty to the animals of all kingdoms. Her father was Tarhun, the Storm God; she helped Tarhun defeat Illuyankas, a giant serpent, by inviting the serpent to dinner and getting the serpent and most of his family highly inebriated. Tarhun's other attempts when Illuyankas was sober were not successful, however, while intoxicated Tarhun was able to slay the giant serpent.

The feast that Inara used to lure the giant serpent, Illuyankas, was her wedding feast where she married a mortal man name Hupasiyas. From the survived pieces of stone, historians can decipher that Inara and Hupasiyas eventually split. However there are not enough remaining fragments to know what happened to Inara after that.

The wedding feast myth is very similar, and possibly influenced, the Shinto myth of the Storm God Susanowo inviting an eight-tailed dragon to a feast. Susanowo succeeded in getting the eight-tail dragon to drink enormous amounts of saki and then slaying him.

Hahhima

He is the evil God of Winter and Bad Weather. He attacked using frost, sleet, snow, and hail. When the sun God, Istanu, is unable to be found and is

declared missing, Hahhima uses his weapons to sabotage the efforts of the other Deities from finding Istanu.

Sandan

The God and ruler of the Lions, he was granted this name due to his defeat of so many lions during his lifetime. He wore the fur of the lions he killed and walked the earth as a demigod. His death was a heroic one in which he was burned on a pyre, which is a pile of metal this is combustible and used to burn corpses. After his death, he became a God and was used as a symbol in funeral pyres that were used during this time, to show a warrior that had died heroically.

Khipe

Khipe was known for her protection and guardian abilities, referred to as the God of Tutelary, meaning protection, in the surviving fragments of recovered Hittite stone. She was often associated with lions, and believed to have been the mate of the Lion God Sandan and influenced the creation of Hebe in Greek mythology.

Kamrusepa

The Goddess of Medicine and Magic, assisted the God of Vegetation and Agriculture, Telipinu, in cleansing his body and soul of anger and the negative emotions he possessed. She placed the negative emotions and anger in different capsules and placed them throughout the Netherworld.

Aruna

The father of Hatepuna, and the father-in-law of the God of Vegetation and Agriculture, Telipinu, he was the God of the Sea. Aruna is said to have either influenced or was inspired by the God of the Waters in Hindu culture, Varuna. Aruna was the son of the God of Medicine and Magic, Kamrusepa.

Hatepuna

The daughter of Aruna, the God of the Sea, is believed to be the Goddess and ruler of one of the lakes in Anatolia. However, there are not enough remains of the texts to know which lake she rules. She was also the patron Goddess of Maliluha, a city in Hittite. She married Telipinu, the God of Vegetation and Agriculture, who is also the son of Tarhun.

Telipinu

The son of Tarhun, the Storm God, he was the God of Vegetation and Agriculture. As the Sun God, Istanu, he was declared missing for a long period. A search was undertaken by many of the Deities, where the Deities frequently disappear and reappear in the myths. Telipinu's myth of his disappearance is possibly thought to relate and illustrate the 'dead and resurrected' Gods and Goddesses of the Seasons, influenced by European and Middle Eastern religions and mythology.

Kurunta

Also known as 'Runta,' he was the God of Hunting and Good Luck. Some versions of his story include him having antlers on his head. He was found on Hittite stone carving to be riding a giant, double headed eagle with rabbits (or

some kind of prey) in each of its claws. Kurunta was able to defeat Tarhun and dethrone the Storm God for a short period of time. Kurunta was eventually overthrown, Tarhun returning to his place as King and Ruler of the Heavens. Particularly interesting in this myth, Kurunta was ultimately forgiven for overthrowing Tarhun, and was allowed to rejoin Tarhun's kingdom.

Sharruma

One of Tarhun's sons, Sharruma is the God and ruler of the mountain range that he is named after.

Hanwasuit

Hanwasuit gave kings that resided on earth and ruled humans, their divine power to rule. She was the Goddess of Thrones and the objects mortal kings used to rule their empire.

Shaushka

The Goddess of Beauty, Love, and Fertility, Shaushka is also known for her short temper and dangerous nature when she became angry. Traditionally, she is depicted as riding a lion and had wings on her back. She was able to use her skills to seduce Hadammu in order to defeat him by the use of treachery (considered a grave charge in Hittite culture), however when she attempted to seduce the stone giant, Illikummi, his heart as hard as his body, she was unsuccessful in her attempts.

Jarri

He is the God of disease and insects and rodent infestations. Jarri is said to have arrows poisoned at the tip with various diseases and shot at his enemies infecting them with different ailments.

The Gods and Goddesses of their mythology tales heavily influenced the culture of Hittite people. Loyalty and honor were highly valued; paternalism was highly valued as well, depicting Gods as heroes and warriors, while Goddesses were seductresses and care-providers.

Frequently new Gods and Goddesses would appear, symbolizing the changes in seasons, which was very typical of mythology of various cultures thousands of years ago. Being in harmony with the earth, sky, and sun was very important, and many tales centered on nature and its cycles.

Hittite culture was also very religious; the Hittite king was not only king but also the high priest. The laws of Hittite, were adopted from the laws of Babylon, a highly regarded culture. Hittite mythology was influenced by many stories from Babylon and religious undertones. Unfortunately, because of the 80 years of peace the Hittite people experienced from 1280 B.C.E to 1200 B.C.E, many of the soldiers and army members died, and new soldiers were not trained. When the city was overthrown and burned, the vast majority of texts, sculptures, carvings, and artwork were destroyed. Although we are not sure who destroyed the Hittite culture, it is known that the Kakans from Russia, had attempted to overthrow the empire just 100 years before. The greatest insult to the destruction of this culture is the little information and artifacts that no longer exist. The tales of Hittites are vibrant and depict a world of Gods and Goddesses that fought to keep a Kingdom together and teach honor and loyalty. We can only guess how many of the stories end, however, I am sure many end just as extravagantly as they began.

Conclusion

Thank you for reading this e-Book on the Hittites Empire.

I hope that you have enjoyed reading about the various aspects of what made the Hittites empire so important during that period and how they contributed to the human civilization in general.

While the Hittites have not been highlighted in a lot of history books, they did leave their mark in human history by occupying a large area around powerful neighbors in the time they existed. They ruled over what we call the modern- day Turkey for a number of centuries before finally being defeated.

During the period that the Hittites ruled, they contributed immensely to the development of the society and also a lot of beliefs that are even prevalent today. Also, their contribution to discovering and using iron for weapons led to human developing stronger and durable weapons. They were also among the first few civilizations that had proper town planning and also built structurally strong homes with bathrooms and kitchens.

Though not as glorified as the Egyptian, Greek or the Roman empires, the Hittites history shows a charisma of its own. It is a period that showed a lot of human evolution in the way we lived and also in the way we looked at various aspects of life.

I have tried my level best to cover as much as possible in the book, but there will always be more discoveries about the Hittites as historians have a lot of missing gaps to fill.

You can also find interesting videos online and some amazing pictures of archeological evidence that is found. To learn more about the Hittites, you can continue your quest for knowledge by reading and watching stuff available on the Internet. Since it is a historical period of which everything is not yet known, the unknown mysteries and secrets keep you enticed and excited. There is some highly recommended published work available about the secrets of the Hittites and how they were able to keep the secrecy of their civilization for centuries. That could be a good read as well.

Thank you once again for reading and good luck!